

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS FOR TRUCK STOPS AND TRAVEL CENTERS SAFETY BRIEFING FACILITATION GUIDE

This safety briefing for truck stops and travel centers is a tool general managers can use to educate their employees about human trafficking and how to respond. It can be completed in five or eleven minutes.

- 5 minutes = read talking points
- 11 minutes = read talking points + show Nikki Story Video\*

## TALKING POINTS



### WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

This human trafficking awareness safety briefing is brought to us by Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT). You can play an important role in helping to combat human trafficking.

There are some important things to understand about this crime:

- Human trafficking involves people being illegally bought and sold for forced labor or commercial sex.
- Human trafficking occurs in all countries, including the U.S. and Canada, and all types of communities (urban, suburban and rural).
- Victims of trafficking are often recruited and exploited in their home country, this includes U.S. and Canadian citizens. Trafficking and smuggling are different crimes.
- Many victims of human trafficking are used in the sex industry. Victims of sex trafficking may act as if they are involved in prostitution voluntarily when, in reality, they are being manipulated, threatened or abused.
- Any minor involved in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.
- Most victims of trafficking knew their trafficker in some way prior to their exploitation. Traffickers often groom their victims to win their love and trust. They do this to gain psychological control over their victims, which they will often use in combination with violence, threats and isolation.



### WHY TRUCK STOPS AND TRAVEL CENTERS?

Traffickers regularly transport and sell their victims at places that are convenient and easy to access. This can make our locations a target. Beyond that, when traffickers transport their victims, they are traveling on the same roads and stopping at the same truck stops, travel centers and gas stations as everyone else, creating multiple opportunities for victim recovery. By taking action, you could help save a life.

# TALKING POINTS



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED?



GET THE TAT APP!

Here are a few examples of how truck stop and travel center employees have helped to prevent or disrupt human trafficking:

- A travel center night porter suspected a young lady on the premises was being prostituted. He reported his suspicions to his field manager and they contacted local police. When the police arrived, they recognized the lady from online sex ads they'd been investigating. The quick action by these employees resulted in the arrest of three traffickers and the recovery of 20 survivors.
- A travel center cashier engaged a woman who seemed distressed in conversation. Because a man was in the store with her, the cashier used a rewards application as a guise to collect additional information and learned the woman was being sexually exploited. The cashier called the police, and the woman was referred for services.
- A young woman at a truck stop approached the counter and indicated she was under the control of a man on the premises and needed help. The cashier contacted his manager who called the sheriff's office. Law enforcement learned the young woman had been reported as a missing person and helped her reunite with her family.

Indicators of human trafficking include:

- People who seem to be under the the control of someone else (communication, movement, ID, money, choices, etc.)
- Cars that drop off a group of individuals in the lot and then park off to the side
- Individuals who are approaching trucks on the lot
- Women or minors who accompany a man into the shower area or another secluded spot
- An RV or van parked out by the trucks
- Solicitation for prostitution
- Someone exchanging sex for anything of value
- People who look frightened, uncomfortable, bruised/beaten or confused

If you suspect human trafficking or prostitution, whether an adult or minor, inform the manager-on-duty and call 911. If you are talking with a suspected adult victim who wants help, call the national human trafficking hotline to access services (US: 1-888-3737-888 | Canada: 1-833-900-1010).

TAT has a series of free training resources, which you can access on their website or app. By being knowledgeable, aware and willing to get involved, you can make a difference.

*\*11 minute version: After reading the talking points aloud, either watch the 6-minute Nikki Story Video as a group or instruct individuals to watch the video via the TAT App or at <https://truckersagainsttrafficking.org/truck-stops/>.*